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NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

Coatesville VA Medical Center Celebrates Black History Month

Coatesville, PA – February 26th, 2009 – Veterans, special guests, friends and employees gathered Tuesday to celebrate the “Quest for Black Citizenship in the Americas”, the theme of Black History Month this year. This theme and celebration call to attention the aspirations of racial equality on which the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, or the NAACP, was founded.

The celebration featured beautiful music, poetry, and a keynote address by Chester County Commissioner Terence Farrell. Farrell spoke about the importance of education in today's world. He also discussed the valuable contributions of many African Americans including Langston Hughes, world-acclaimed poet, and Thurgood Marshall, the first African American Justice of the US Supreme Court. “Many Americans do not know of the numerous contributions African Americans have made to this great country,” Farrell said. “I am honored to be a part of that education process.”

Next, a celebration to recognize the 100th Birthday of the NAACP was held. Terence Farrell, Donald Means, associate director of CVAMC, and Sandra Simmons, equal employment opportunity manager at CVAMC, joined each other in the front of the room for a cake cutting

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ceremony. Attendees enjoyed the dessert to commemorate this significant occasion in the history of this significant organization.

About the Coatesville Veterans Affairs Medical Center

Coatesville Veterans Affairs Medical Center is an integrated health care system dedicated to providing the best in care and services to our veterans. CVAMC offers mental health care, primary care, geriatrics and extended care, specialty and women's health care, and pharmacy and social work services to both inpatients and outpatients. CVAMC operates community based outpatient clinics in Springfield and Spring City, PA. The medical center serves veterans in 53 counties in Pennsylvania, Maryland and Delaware. For more information, visit www.coatesville.va.gov or call 610-384-7711 or 1-800-290-6172.

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